REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 14-17, 22-23, 25, 29, and 33-35. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 5, 7-9, 11-17, 20-25, and 29-35 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claims 1, 5, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities. Again, the Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to correct the informalities. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 20, 23, 24, 30, 31, and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele (US Patent 7,016,877) in view of Yasala (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0188156). The Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguish the Applicant's claimed invention. In particular, "personal profile data protection server" has been amended to read "protection server". The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Applicant's claimed invention provides an intermediary proxy server (preferably located within the user's personal environment or at the operator premises) and a protection server for protecting user profile data. The intermediary proxy server requests a certificate and signed content from the protection server over a secure connection. The intermediary proxy server verifies that the certificate belongs to the protection server by comparing the certificate of the protection server with a published certificate. The protection server includes an API to allow interactions with a service provider and a storing means for storing specific data and end user personal profile

data. The service provider can then, through the API, request personal profile data wherein the personal profile data is delivered according to the end user privacy level.

The Detailed Action cites the Steele reference for disclosing protection of end user personal profile data using an intermediary proxy server and a personal profile data protection server. The Applicant has reviewed the referenced portions of Steele and, respectfully, the Applicant disagrees with the interpretation of those portions. The Detailed Action states that the intermediary proxy of the Applicant's disclosure corresponds to client side application 105 of the Steele reference. The client side application is an "...application specific to [a] browser session only and not to the client device 104." Also, the client side application "... may be removed from the client device 104 after its execution is complete" (column 7, lines 55-60). There are other references in the patent alluding to the temporary nature of the client device in the Steele reference.

As disclosed by the Applicant the intermediary proxy server is described as supporting different protocols (page 6, lines 1-8). Also, the Steele references' "client side application" is specific to a browser session, is used to populate fields that the consumer may verify – not the client side application. As noted above the intermediary proxy server verifies that a certificate belongs to the protection server by comparing the certificate of the protection server with a published certificate. The Steele reference des not teach or suggest that the client side application can perform this action. Nor is Steele capable of requesting a certificate and signed content from a protection server over a secure connection.

The protection server is described as corresponding to host server 108. Host server 108 includes DBMS 109. DBMS 109 is used for authentication. The host server is in contrast to the Applicant's protection server which provides certificates of protection in order for the intermediary server to perform the authentication task. Furthermore, the host server of Steele lacks an API for communicating with a service provider. Also, the host server does not deliver personal profile data to a requesting service provider according to user preferences or in such a way that there is no association between the personal profile data and the user.

The Yasala reference is cited for disclosing personal profile data protection server having a protection certificate. The Applicant has reviewed the cited portion of the Yasala reference and respectfully disagrees with the interpretation. The cited portion (para 27-31) merely describes establishing an SSL Handshake between two peers. The certificate is used to transfer data between a first peer and second peer securely. However, the Yasala reference does not disclose specifically protecting user profile data.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that the Steele reference and the Yasala reference, whether individually or in combination, do not include the above noted limitations. This being the case, independent claims 1 and 23, which are analogous and include similar limitations, are patentable over Steele and Yasala. The respective dependent claims are also patentable over Steele and Yasala. The Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-2, 5, 7-9, 1-12, 20, 23-24, 30-31, and 33-35 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 7, 11, 14, 21, 22, 29, 32, 34, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele in view of Yasala, further in view of Gabber (U.S. Patent 5,961,593). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Gabber reference is cited for disclosing the first communication protocol is a secure protocol – outside the user's computer. Gabber is also cited for further limitations as claimed by the rejected claims. However, a combination of Steele, Yasala and Gabber does not provide limitations lacking from the combination of Steele and Yasala including the protection server and the API for communicating with a service provider.

Claims 2, 7, 11, 14, 21, 22, 29, 32, 34, and 35 depend from the respective independent claims and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 1 and 23. Therefore, the allowance of claims 2, 7, 11, 14, 21, 22, 29, 32, 34, and 35 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 15-17, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steele, in view of Yasala, and further in view of P3P ("P3P 1.0: A new Standard in Online Piracy", 9/13/2000, pp. 1-6). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.
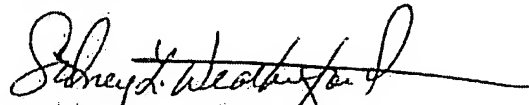
The P3P reference is cited for disclosing storing user preferences in an end user station, separate fast access storing means, the arrangement of claim 16 and the incorporation of a P3P agreement in the Applicant's claimed agreement. The Applicant has reviewed the P3P reference and respectfully submits that the reference does not disclose the recited limitations and upon reviewing the underlying P3P technical report the Applicant respectfully submits that P3P actually teaches away from the Applicant's invention. For instance, there is no reference to storing user preferences in the end user station in either the cited P3P reference or the underlying document. As the underlying technical report notes "Information is not retained for more than a brief period of time necessary to make use of it during the course of a single online interaction. Information MUST be destroyed following this interaction and MUST NOT be logged, archived, or otherwise stored." (paragraph 3.3.6). This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13, 15-17 and 25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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